

**REMARKS**

Careful consideration has been given by the applicants to the Examiner's comments and rejection of various the claims, as set forth in the outstanding Office Action, and favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, as amended, is earnestly solicited.

Applicant notes the Examiner's requirement for listing in the specification the cross-reference to the related applications, and appropriate amendatory action has been taken in that regard, indicating that this application is the national stage of PCT/EP04/09644, and which claims priority of German Application No. 103 41 791.5. in this connection, applicant notes that reference to the foregoing related applications is duly set forth in the Oath and Declaration, as attached to the application and executed by the applicant, and also listed on the Filing Receipt mailed March 14, 2007. Accordingly, all requirements in that regard have been fully met, and no petition is required to be filed by the applicant.

Applicant further gratefully notes the Examiner's indication that at least Claims 1-10, 14-19 and 24 are considered to be directed to allowable subject matter and will be allowed if overcoming the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Furthermore, applicant notes the allowability of Claims 22 and 23 and that these claims would be allowed if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, in order to substantially place the application into order for allowance, applicant has amended the claims to meet the Examiner's requirements.

Concerning allowable Claims 1-10, 14-19 and 24, these have been amended in formal respects to provide terminology consistent with the U.S. claim drafting practice, taking full cognizance of the Examiner's grounds of rejection.

Furthermore, with respect to Claims 22 and 23, these have been amended whereby Claim 22 is now presented in independent form by having been incorporated into Claim 20, from which it was dependent, whereas Claim 23 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and is now the subject matter of new Claim 26, with previous Claim 21 also being presented as an additional new Claim 27, dependent upon clearly allowable Claim 26.

Applicant further notes the rejection of Claim 11 and Claims 12 and 13, which are dependent therefrom.

However, in order to obviate the rejection of Claim 11 as being anticipated by cited Firth, et al., applicant has incorporated the limitation of Claim 12 into Claim 11, clearly indicating patentable subject matter, which specifies that the structure of the tubular piston in the semi-finished state thereof, which includes a formed-in portion which contains a thickened portion of material, protruding radially from the peripheral wall. This particular type of material thickening and configuration, wherein the tubular piston is essentially semi-finished, is not in any manner disclosed in Firth, et al.

Similarly, applicant has presented a new claim, i.e., Claim 25, which incorporates the limitations of cancelled Claim 13 into Claim 11, and which also clearly specifies unique and patentable subject matter, whereby there is provided a convergence of the side surfaces of the material thickening. This structure and formation is not in any manner disclosed in the prior art.

Moreover, these claims have also been amended to eliminate reference to the pre-fabricated state; thereby obviating the Examiner's ground of rejection that the embodiments conflict with that of original Claim 11.

Accordingly, inasmuch as all of the matters objected to and rejected by the Examiner have been attended to, and in the presence of allowable subject matter, wherein the claims have been revised in conformance with the Examiner's requirements, the early and favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, as amended, is earnestly solicited. However, in the event that the Examiner has any queries concerning the instantly submitted Amendment, applicant's attorney respectfully requests that he be accorded the courtesy of possibly a telephone conference to discuss any matters in need of attention.

Respectfully submitted,



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